IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended): A (meth)acrylic resin emulsion comprising:

as a dispersant, a vinyl alcohol polymer having a degree of saponification of from 80 to 95 mol% and a degree of polymerization of from 400 to 2000, and

as a dispersoid, a polymer comprising at least one type of reacted monomer units selected from the group consisting of an acrylate monomer unit and a methacrylate monomer unit,

wherein

said emulsion has a "factor a" of at least 0.3 that indicates the particle size distribution width of the emulsion and of which a film formed at 20°C and 65 % RH to have a thickness of 500 μm has a tensile strength of at least 100 kg/cm^2; ~~and~~

a dissolution of said film is at most 10% when dipped in an aqueous 1 N sodium hydroxide solution at 20°C for 24 hours; and

the vinyl alcohol polymer comprises at least 1.9 mol% of a 1,2-glycol bond.

2 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dissolution is at most 8%.

3 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer comprises from 1 to 20 mol% of α-olefin units having at most 4 carbon atoms in the molecule.

4 (Currently Amended): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer comprises ~~at least 1.9~~ of from 2.1 to 3.2 mol% of a 1,2-glycol bond

5 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer comprises from 1 to 20 mol% of α-olefin units having at most 4 carbon atoms in the molecule, and comprises from (1.7 - X/40) to 4 mol% of 1,2-glycol bond where the content of the α-olefin units is represented by X mol%.

6-12 (Cancelled)

13 (Original): A synthetic resin powder obtained by drying the (meth)acrylic resin emulsion of claim 1.

14 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a (meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1, comprising:

emulsion (co)polymerizing at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of an acrylate monomer and a methacrylate monomer in the presence of a vinyl alcohol polymer dispersant, which has a degree of saponification of from 80 to 95 mol% and a degree of polymerization of from 400 to 2000,

said emulsion (co)polymerizing comprising:

i) feeding into a reactor at an initial stage (1) an iron compound, (2) the monomer, and (3) the vinyl alcohol polymer to form a polymerizing system,

ii) continuously or intermittently adding to said polymerizing system a peroxide.

15 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein a reducing agent is fed into said polymerizing system during said feeding.

16 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the reducing agent is L(+)-tartaric acid, sodium L(+)-tartrate, or a combination thereof.

17 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said peroxide is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, ammonium persulfate, potassium persulfate, and t-butyl hydroperoxide.

18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the amount of the peroxide is from 0.01 to 1 part by weight in terms of the pure content thereof, relative to 100 parts by weight of the monomer.

19 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the iron compound is present in an amount ranging from 1 to 50 ppm relative to the total amount of monomer present.

20 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is ferrous chloride.

21 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is at least one of ferrous chloride, ferrous sulfate, ferric chloride, ferric nitrate, or ferric sulfate.

22 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is ferrous chloride or ferrous sulfate.

23 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the iron compound is present in an amount of from 5 to 30 ppm, relative to the total amount of monomer present.

24 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said acrylate monomer is a monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, i-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, i-butyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, dodecyl acrylate, and octadecyl acrylate; and

said methacrylate monomer is a monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, i-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, i-butyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, dodecyl methacrylate, and octadecyl methacrylate.

25 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein said acrylate monomer unit is a unit of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, i-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, i-butyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, dodecyl acrylate, or octadecyl acrylate; and

said methacrylate monomer unit is a unit of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, i-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, i-butyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, dodecyl methacrylate, or octadecyl methacrylate.

26 (Currently Amended): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1, ~~having~~ a film formed at 20°C and 65% RH to have a thickness of 500 μm from said emulsion has tensile strength of from 110 to 300 kg/cm^2.

27 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein said vinyl alcohol polymer has a degree of saponification of from 83 to 93 mol%.

28 (New): A (meth)acrylic resin emulsion comprising:

as a dispersant, a vinyl alcohol polymer having a degree of saponification of from 80 to 95 mol% and a degree of polymerization of from 400 to 2000, and

as a dispersoid, a polymer comprising at least one type of reacted monomer units selected from the group consisting of an acrylate monomer unit and a methacrylate monomer unit,

wherein

said emulsion has a "factor a" of at least 0.9 that indicates the particle size distribution width of the emulsion and of which a film formed at 20°C and 65 % RH to have a thickness of 500 μm has a tensile strength of at least 160 kg/cm^2;

a dissolution of said film is at most 5% when dipped in an aqueous 1 N sodium hydroxide solution at 20°C for 24 hours; and

the vinyl alcohol polymer comprises at least 2.5 mol% of a 1,2-glycol bond.